

subject of *Turdus minutus* Forster (*Ibis*, 1917, p. 422). For Wytsman's 'Genera Avium' he prepared several fascicules dealing with the Cranes, Apteryges, Cassowaries, and Emus.

All Brasil's work was characterized by the qualities of order and precision, and he was a most careful and accurate writer.

His death, which took place at the Marine Laboratory of the University of Caen, at Luc-sur-mer, after a prolonged and painful illness, is a great loss to the somewhat sparse ranks of French ornithologists.

We have also to record the recent deaths of Mr. N. Chaplin, Mr. Frederick Sharman, and Mr. J. C. McLean, all Members of the Union. We hope to give further details in the next number of 'The Ibis.'

XIX.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

Bangs on various birds.

[Notes on the species and subspecies of *Pæcilonitta* Eyton. By Outram Bangs. *Proc. New England Zoöl. Club*, vi. 1918, pp. 87-89.]

[A new genus of Caprimulgidae. *Id., ibid.* pp. 91-92.]

[A new race of the Black-throated Green Wood-Warbler. *Id., ibid.* pp. 93-94.]

[List of birds collected on the Harvard Peruvian Expedition of 1916. By Outram Bangs and G. K. Noble. *Auk*, xxxv. 1918, pp. 442-462.]

In the first note Mr. Bangs recognizes two forms of the Bahama duck: *Pæcilonitta bahamensis bahamensis* (Linn.), from the Bahamas, Antilles, Guiana, and northern Brazil, and *P. b. rubrirostris* (Vieill.) from southern South America (type locality, Buenos Aires). With the same genus he associates *P. galapagensis* Ridgw., *P. spinicauda* (Vieill.) from southern South America, usually associated with the genus *Dafila*, and *P. erythrorhyncha* (Gmel.) of Africa.

In the second note a new generic name *Veles* is proposed for a rare West African Nightjar, *Caprimulgus binotatus* Bp.

Mr. Bangs' third note proposes to recognize as a distinct new subspecies, *Dendroica virens waynei*, a form apparently resident and breeding in the primeval swamps of South Carolina, while the typical race *D. v. virens* is still in its winter quarters in Mexico or Central America. The breeding range of the typical form is in Canada and the northern part of the United States.

The last paper on the list is a more important one; it contains descriptions of a number of new forms, and taxonomic notes on others, based on a large collection of birds formed in the north-western corner of Peru by the junior author. It has already been noticed (*antea*, p. 144) in the general review of the 'Auk' for 1918.

Flower and Nicoll on Bird-protection in Egypt.

[The principal species of Birds protected by law in Egypt. By Capt. S. S. Flower and M. J. Nicoll. Pp. iv+4, 8 pls. Cairo (Govt. Press), 1918. Price P.T.5.]

In order to promote the preservation of insectivorous birds so important in agriculture, the Egyptian Government passed a stringent law in 1912, containing a list of those birds whose destruction was prohibited. This has already had great effect on the numbers of the Buff-backed Egret, which has since that date increased to a very marked extent, but some of the smaller and less conspicuous birds are still trapped and killed in considerable numbers.

In order to assist in the recognition of the protected species, the Ministry of Agriculture has issued this pamphlet prepared by Capt. Flower and Mr. Nicoll, in which a list of the forty principal protected species is given with their English, French, Arabic, and scientific names, their local status, approximate size and concise notes on coloration for the purpose of easy identification. On the eight accompanying plates, 24 of these species are illustrated by good and clear-coloured pictures reproduced by the Survey of Egypt. There will be no excuse, therefore, for the destruction of these valuable birds in the future.

Lönnberg on a Linnean type.

[*Loxia hordacea* Linné 1758 is identical with *Euplectes flammiceps* Swainson 1837. By Einar Lönnberg. *Ark. Zool.* Stockholm, xii. no. 3, 1918, pp. 1-5.]

The type of Linnaeus' description in the 10th edition of the 'Systema' is still preserved in the Royal Natural History Museum at Stockholm. It was originally in the private collection of King Adolf Frederik and was preserved in spirit, whence it passed into the collections of the Academy of Sciences and to its present resting place. It was removed from spirit and mounted before 1840, when it was listed by Sundevall in a MS. catalogue of the birds in the Museum, so that its history is quite clear and authentic. Though not in first-rate condition it is quite easy to identify it with the bird now generally known as *Pyromelana flammiceps* (Swains.) found in tropical Africa, and Swainson's name must undoubtedly give way to Linnaeus' earlier one.

The reason why the identification has not been previously made is owing to an unfortunate misprint in the diagnosis, where "temporibus albis" should without doubt read "temporibus atris," as pointed out by Dr. Lönnberg.

That Linnaeus also frequently used the words "fulvus" and "griseus" when he intended to describe red and brown respectively, is shown by Dr. Lönnberg from the description not only of *Loxia hordacea* where there occurs "fulva sunt caput, collum, uropygium," meaning that these parts are red, but also in the case of many other birds.

Mathews on the Birds of Australia.

[The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. vii. pt. iv. pp. 321-384, pls. 352-362. London (Witherby), Dec. 1918. 4to.]

In continuing his account of the Cuckoos, Mr. Mathews brings out many interesting facts, though our knowledge of their life-histories generally leaves much to be desired, and in the case of *Lamprococcyx lucidus* the winter quarters are absolutely unknown. The Channel-bill, the last species fully treated, is especially noticeable for its extraordinary

appearance and unusual habits, but "Bronze Cuckoos" occupy the bulk of this part of the work.

In regard to *Cacomantis pyrrophanus* we are told that the type-locality is still uncertain, and that *insperatus* of Gould, *tymbonomus* of Ramsay and *brisbanensis* of Diggles, are mere synonyms. On the other hand, *dumetorum*, *variolosus* and *lineatus* are allowed subspecific instead of specific rank, as representing north-western, south-western, and Queensland forms. To these is added a new subspecies *vidgeni*, from Cape York, while the New Guinea forms may have to be separated.

Mr. Mathews' new genus *Vidgenia*, based chiefly on peculiarities in the immature bird, contains only the rare Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo, with no certain subspecies and an obscure life-history: the young bird is to be figured shortly.

Another rare Cuckoo is *Owenavis osculans* (*Misocallius* auctt.), wrongly identified by Cabanis and Heine with *palliolatus* of Latham. Here a subspecies, *rogersi*, may possibly be allowed in the north-west.

The author no longer presses for the adoption of *Neochalcites* for *Chalcites* in the case of the Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo, well known under the name *basalis*, while he recognizes as subspecies *mellori*, *wyndhami* and *modesta*. Many good notes on its habits are cited.

Four species are allotted to *Lamprococcyx*, viz., *lucidus*, *plagiosus*, *minutillus* and *russatus*, though it is possible that the first two are only subspecifically different, especially if Mr. Mathews' suggestion that they are really sedentary in New Zealand and Australia respectively proves to hold true. The relation between the remaining pair is still more complicated: *minutillus* is synonymous with *malayanus* of Shelley, while *russatus* is now found not to belong to the *basalis* group, as the author formerly believed, and *barnardi* is relegated to a subspecies. *L. plagiosus* has the subspecies *carteri* and *tasmanicus*. Tails of all these species (and of *barnardi*) are figured for comparison.

The well-known Koel (*Eudynamis orientalis*) presents no

difficulties, for the Australian form (*flindersi*) is only sub-specifically separable, while *cyancephalus* and *subcyancephalus* are admitted as subspecies from Queensland and northern Australia respectively. The Channel-bill (*Scythrops novae-hollandiae*) has a western form, *neglectus*: the endemic Coucal is termed *Polophilus* Leach, in preference to *Centropus*.

Riley's recent papers.

[A new Bullfinch from China. By J. H. Riley. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 31, 1918, pp. 33-34.]

[Two new genera and eight new birds from Celebes. Id., ibid. pp. 155-160.]

[Annotated Catalogue of a collection of birds made by Mr. Copley Amory Jr. in north-eastern Siberia. Id., Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., vol. 54 1918, pp. 607-626.]

The new Bullfinch, named *Pyrrhula erythaca wilderi* after Mr. G. D. Wilder, who captured it in the mountains of the Chili Province, China, differs from the typical race in its smaller size and in some particulars of its coloration.

The new birds from Celebes recently collected by Mr. H. C. Raven are:—*Caprimulgus affinis propinquus* and *Collocazia vestita anigma* subsp. n.; *Rhamphococcyx centralis*, *Lophozosterops striaticeps*, *Cataponera additiva*, and *Cryptolopha nesophila* spp. n.; *Coracornis raveni* and *Celebesia abbotti* genn. et spp. n. are believed to be sufficiently distinct to warrant the creation of new generic names; *Coracornis* is apparently allied to *Pachycephala*, and *Celebesia* to *Malindangia* Mearns.

While on a business mission to the Kolyma river region of north-eastern Siberia in 1914, Mr. Copley Amory made a good collection of 228 specimens of birds which he presented to the National Museum at Washington. A collection made by Mr. Koren in the same region has been reported on by Messrs. Thayer and Bangs, so that there are no novelties among Mr. Amory's birds, but Mr. Riley has been able to make interesting taxonomic remarks on some of the species, and the collector has added some useful field-notes.

Shufeldt on the Hoatzin.

[Notes on the osteology of the young of the Hoatzin (*Opisthocomus cristatus*) and other points on its morphology. By R. W. Shufeldt. *Journ. Morphology*, vol. 31, 1918, pp. 599-606; 4 pls.]

In a short paper Dr. Shufeldt presents us with the results of his examination of several subadult and one young specimen of this curious and interesting type. Two of these have been prepared as skeletons which are described at some length, while the other specimens have been studied as regards their pterylosis. The most striking character of the skeleton of the young *Opisthocomus* is the enormous size of the feet as compared with the rest of the body, but beyond mentioning a general resemblance in some respects to the Game-birds, Dr. Shufeldt does not indicate any further clues to the relationships of this remarkable bird.

Taverner on Canadian Hawks.

[The Hawks of the Canadian Prairie Provinces in their relation to Agriculture. By P. A. Taverner. *Ottawa Museum Bull.* no. 28, 1918, pp. 1-14; 4 col. pls.]

In this useful little brochure Mr. Taverner reviews the commoner Hawks of the western Provinces of Canada from the economic point of view, and in order to assist in their identification a series of eight small coloured illustrations accompany the article. The destruction of birds of prey has generally been indiscriminate, and has often been stimulated by the payment of bounties by the Government. The only Hawks which are condemned by Mr. Taverner are those of the genera *Accipiter* and *Astur*, and of these the American Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus*) is undoubtedly a confirmed chicken and grouse thief. Mr. Taverner states that the normal range of this bird is along the northern limit of intense cultivation and that its usual food is the Varying Hare. This animal increases annually until it becomes very numerous, and with it the Goshawk and other rabbit-eating animals increase too. Eventually a contagious disease spreads among the hares, and the Goshawks turn their

attention to game-birds ; moreover, they move to the southern prairie districts and do much damage to the game-birds and the poultry-runs.

The other Hawks, including the Buzzards, usually known as Red-tails, live chiefly on Gophers, those little fossorial burrowing rat-like animals which do enormous damage to agriculture, and these birds should be most strictly preserved in the opinion of Mr. Taverner.

Wetmore's recent papers.

[Duck sickness in Utah. By Alexander Wetmore. U.S. Dept. Agr. Bull. no. 672, 1918, pp. 1-25; 4 pls.]

[Birds observed near Mico, Central Oklahoma. Id., Wilson Bull. Chicago, no. 102, 1918, pp. 2-16.]

[The birds of Desechoe Island, Porto Rico. Id., Auk, xxxv. 1918, pp. 333-340.]

[Description of a new subspecies of the Little Yellow Bittern from the Philippine Islands. Id., Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 31, 1918, pp. 83, 84.]

[On the anatomy of *Nyctibius*, with notes on allied birds. Id., Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. vol. 54, 1918, pp. 577-586; 7 text-figs.]

[Bones of birds collected by Theodoor de Booy from Kitchen Midden deposits in the Islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix. Id., ibid. pp. 513-522.]

For the last eight or nine years the wild-ducks and other shore-birds of Great Salt Lake in Utah, as well as those of some of the other western lakes, have suffered very severely from a mysterious disease, and for three years Mr. Wetmore was detailed by the Biological Survey at Washington to investigate it. The birds suffered most during the summer season, at a time when the rivers running into the lake were at their lowest, and the symptoms of the disease indicated in a large part, a paralysis of the nerve-centres controlling the muscular system. The birds perished by the ten thousand, and lay dead in heaps along the marshes of the lower channels of the rivers.

After considerable investigation Mr. Wetmore came to the conclusion that the trouble was due, not to any bacterial or protozoan disease as was for long supposed, but to the

toxic action of certain soluble salts found in alkali, chiefly chlorides of calcium and magnesium. During the summer months, when but little fresh water comes down the rivers, the pools on the mudflats where the ducks feed become so strongly impregnated with these salts that the birds' intestines are no longer able to perform their proper functions. That this is the true cause is shown by the fact that when the sick and dying birds were collected and placed in pens and given fresh water to drink, they rapidly recovered. Mr. Wetmore states that the remedial measures which promised success in dealing with the trouble are : (1) Increasing the supply of fresh water in the streams, which, however, is not very feasible as all the water available is required for irrigation higher up the streams : (2) Draining the affected areas ; (3) Collecting the sick ducks for treatment. The whole subject is exceedingly interesting and is most clearly and successfully dealt with by the author.

The second paper is chiefly of local interest, containing a list of 62 species of birds found in Oklahoma, a State of the "middle west," the bird-life of which is not very well known as compared with other portions of the United States.

Desechoe Island is only about one and a quarter by three quarters of a mile in size and lies between Porto Rico and San Domingo. Mr. Wetmore spent three or four days there in June 1912. It is very dry and hot and there are no springs. Mr. Wetmore records the occurrence of eleven species, the most abundant of which is the Booby (*Sula leucogastra*), which nests on the island in very large numbers. The Noddy, *Anous stolidus*, and the Bridled Tern, *Sterna anætheta*, also breed there.

The new Bittern from the Philippines is a form of *Ixobrychus sinensis*, and is called *I. s. astrologus* from its habit, common to all Bitterns, of star-gazing.

But little has been published on the anatomy of *Nyctibius*, a genus of aberrant Nightjars confined to the Antilles and South America. Mr. Wetmore has been able to examine the body preserved in alcohol of the type-specimen of *N. griseus abbotti*, lately described from Haiti, and adds a

number of additional facts in regard to its anatomy, previously unknown, especially with respect to the single carotid artery, the small size of the left lobe of the liver, the number of cervical vertebrae, and the tongue. After tabulating the anatomical characters he comes to the conclusion that *Nyctibius* should form a family group placed between *Podargus* and the Caprimulgidae, and rather more distantly related to *Steatornis*.

The last paper on the list consists of the results of the examination of a number of bird-bones from the kitchen-middens of St. Thomas and St. Croix in the West Indies. Most of the bones belonged to sea-birds, but there were several of the domestic fowl, showing that some at any rate of the bones were of comparatively recent origin. On a tibia and tibio-tarsal bone Mr. Wetmore describes a new generic type of Rail, apparently allied to *Aramides* and *Gallirallus*, which he names *Nesotrochis debooyi* gen. et sp. n.

Witherby's new book on British Birds.

[A practical Handbook of British Birds. Edited by H. F. Witherby, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. Authors of the Various Sections: Ernst Hartert, Annie C. Jackson, Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, C. Oldham, Norman F. Ticehurst, and the Editor. Part I. Pp. i-xvi+1-64; 2 pls., many text-figs. London (Witherby), March 1919. 8vo. To be published in 18 parts at 4s. net per Part.]

Yet another book on British Birds, will doubtless be the remark of many on seeing the announcement of Mr. Witherby's new work. There are certainly few subjects on which so many books have been written, and of late a year seldom passes without the publication of one or more additional ones.

Mr. Witherby claims, however, for the present work several new features not hitherto found in books on British Birds. These are originality of plan, practical utility and accuracy of detail. The first feature not usual in British bird-books, though usual in those dealing with the avifauna of other lands, is the keys, which certainly are of very

great assistance, both to the tyro as well as to the specialist, in the identification of unknown birds, though, of course, such aids must be used with caution, as is clearly explained in the introductory note. The nomenclature and synonymy is that of the 'Handlist of British Birds,' published by four out of the six authors of the present work in 1912, with such emendations as have come to light since. For this portion of the work and the keys Dr. Hartert is primarily responsible.

The descriptions are very detailed, and the sequence and moult of plumage from nestling to adult are given at length. These are the province of Mr. Witherby and Miss Jackson, the last-named being specially concerned with the Ducks and Waders.

Two unusual sections are those dealing with the characters of the allied subspecific forms inhabiting other portions of the Palaeartic region and the field-characters, in which hints are given for distinguishing birds in their native haunts. The former subject is dealt with by Dr. Hartert, the latter by Mr. Oldham, who also writes on the flight, notes, and social habits.

Nesting- and food-habits form separate sections and devolve on Mr. Jourdain, while migration falls to Mr. Ticehurst.

The scheme, therefore, is essentially a practical and utilitarian one, and there is little room for literary grace or polish; the sentences are clipped and shortened in every possible way.

In the present part is one coloured plate illustrating the juvenile plumage of some of the Finch family, and another in black and white, showing the gradual loss of the feathers on the "face" of the Rook. There are also a large number of text-figures of heads, feet and wings to assist in identification. These are all excellent and most useful. We would make one criticism in regard to the top figure on p. xiv, which illustrates the method of measuring the bill from its tip to the "base of the skull." This latter phrase appears to us very misleading. The base of the skull is

obviously the occipital region which surrounds the foramen magnum, and the phrase can by no manner of means be used for the point where the horny epidermal maxillary sheath merges in the soft epidermis.

The present part, the first of eighteen, deals with the Corvidæ and a portion of the Fringillidæ. Our only fear is that the work, when completed, will be too bulky for convenience. Two volumes of 600 pages each cannot be comfortably carried about. To our mind a book of this very practical kind should be rigorously cut down to a size convenient for travelling, and though perhaps it is too much to expect to take it around in the pocket, it should be possible to transport it in a rucksack. We doubt if it would be easy to do so in the case of the present work when completed.

We await with interest the issue of the rest of the parts, and we feel sure that the work, when completed, will prove of the greatest value to all working ornithologists.

Bird-Lore.

[*Bird-Lore*: a bi-monthly Magazine devoted to the study and protection of birds. Vol. xx. Jan.-Dec. 1918; 6 nos. Harrisburg, Pa., U.S.A.]

‘*Bird-Lore*,’ so ably edited by our Honorary Member Mr. Frank Chapman, keeps up its reputation as the leading popular magazine dealing with birds. As it is the official organ of the Audubon Societies, which now exist in nearly every one of the States of the Union and which are devoted to the preservation and conservation of bird-life, a large portion of the matter contained in each volume deals with the propaganda necessary to carry on this work, which has done so much to preserve for future generations the previously rapidly disappearing birds of North America.

So elaborate are the devices now used by American bird-lovers to encourage and attract birds to frequent their gardens and grounds in the matter of feeding-trays, nesting-boxes, and the plantation of special shrubs and bushes for shelter, that Mr. Oldys finds it necessary to

write a special article protesting against the supposed danger of "pauperizing bird-life."

The present volume is illustrated with many beautiful photographs, and also with a series of coloured plates by Mr. L. A. Fuertes of different groups of American birds. Two of the numbers have a plate of Tanagers, the other four illustrate the Cedar-birds and Waxwings, the Shrikes, the Horned Larks, and the Magpies, and each plate is accompanied by an article on the plumages of the birds by the Editor, and one on the migrations by Mr. Oberholser.

For the past five years Mr. R. H. Beck has been collecting and studying marine birds off the coasts of South America for Messrs. Brewster and Sanford, and some fine photographs of bird-life in the Falkland Islands are reproduced in the present volume. Other articles illustrated by photographs are by Mr. H. E. Tuttle on the nesting of the Nashville Warbler, and by Mr. C. W. Leister on the Black-billed Cuckoo which, it is hardly necessary to remind our readers, is not parasitic.

One of the great features of 'Bird-Lore' is its annual Christmas Census. By the help of numerous readers and contributors a count is taken throughout the States and Canada of all the birds observed on Christmas day each year. The results of the eighteenth of these combined observations is contained in the Jan.-Febr. no. of 'Bird-Lore,' and occupies twenty-five pages. As showing the genial climate of southern California, at Los Angeles no fewer than 106 species were observed within a radius of fifteen miles of the town.

After the entrance of the United States into the war, Mr. Frank Chapman, the Editor of 'Bird-Lore,' was appointed by the War Council at Washington to the post of Red Cross Commissioner to South America, and on 3 October last he left the United States on an extended journey through the South American Republics in the interests of Red Cross work. The Nov.-Dec. no. contains the first of what will doubtless prove to be a most interesting series of ornithological letters on his expedition.

Bird Notes.

[*Bird Notes. The Journal of the Foreign Bird Club.* Edited by Wesley T. Page. Ser. 3, vol. i. Jan.–Dec. 1918.]

Last year's volume of 'Bird Notes,' though perhaps not so stout as some of the preceding ones, contains a number of useful and instructive articles on avicultural subjects. One of the principal contributors is Mr. W. S. Baily, who writes on the Grey Plover, Quails, Parrots, and the Patagonian and Egyptian Geese. He has also a good description of the colour-changes, as he calls them, of the Whydahs, *Coliostrethus laticauda* and *Drepanoplectes jacksoni*. In captivity, at any rate, these changes can hardly be called seasonal, as they recur irregularly, nor indeed does the lack of the so-called nuptial plumes in any way interfere with the breeding of these Whydahs, but of course this may be due to the interference caused by change of habit. There are also a number of practical notes by the editor on the planning of aviaries and other such subjects. The Marquis of Tavistock writes on the Australian Grass Parakeets and deplores their early extinction in their native land. The Splendid (*Neophema splendida*) appears to be already gone and the allied form, the Turquoise, and others appear to be on the verge. Can nothing be done to save the native Australian avifauna?

Dr. Hopkinson concludes a series of articles on the Whydahs, which he commenced in the previous volume, and has now begun an elaborate list of all the birds which have been known to breed in captivity in the British Islands or abroad, with full references to the original account.

Among shorter articles is one by Mr. H. Whistler containing his observations on the nesting and other habits of *Lioptila capistrata* near Murree, a Himalayan hill-station; and Mr. E. W. Harper sends two very interesting photographs of Vultures, which congregate in enormous numbers at a spot a few miles outside the limits of Calcutta, where the bodies of dead horses and cattle are partially made use of. Though there are no coloured plates in the present volume, there are some pleasing uncoloured plates reproduced from

drawings from life by Mrs. A. M. Cook, especially those of Diamond Finches (*Stegonopatra guttata*) and Spice-Finches (*Munia punctulata*). These are a relief from the eternal photograph.

The Condor.

[*The Condor. A Magazine of Western Ornithology.* Vol. **xx.** nos. 1-6, 1918. Published bi-monthly by the Cooper Ornithological Club, Hollywood, California.]

The 'Condor' for last year contains a number of good papers, generally illustrated by photographs, though perhaps these are not so numerous as of old. Even in far western America the pinch of war has penetrated.

Mr. J. A. Muuro opens the volume with an account of the nesting and other habits of Barrow's Golden-eye in the dry, fruit-growing district of Okanagan in British Columbia. They generally make use of an abandoned Flicker's (*Colaptes*) hole in a dead pine-stump, near a lake, for their nest. For the winter they leave the cold interior of the country and resort to the warm waters of Puget and other inlets along the mild coast of the Pacific. Mr. W. C. Bradbury contributes three articles on the nesting-habits and eggs of three well-known species of Colorado birds of whose nidification but little is known. These are the White-throated Swift *Aeronautus melanoleucus*, the Plover *Podaxis montanus*, and the Rocky Mountain Jay *Perisoreus capitalis*. The Swift nests in crevices of cliffs in the Rocky Mountains difficult of access, the Plover on the plains, and the Jay at altitudes of 8000 to 10,000 feet in the mountains, late in April, where it builds in the Lodge-pole Pine. Other articles dealing with local faunas are by Mr. H. S. Swarth, by Messrs. R. W. Quillin and R. Holleman, and by P. A. Taverner on districts in Arizona, Texas, and British Columbia respectively.

To the already very numerous races of the Fox-Sparrow, Mr. J. Mailliard adds another, the Yolla Bolly Fox-Sparrow *Passerella iliaca brevicauda*; while Mr. W. C. Oberholser

distinguishes two races of the Humming-bird known as *Cyanolæmus clemenciae*, the typical form being confined to south-west, central, and southern Mexico, while the new subspecies, *C. c. bessophilus*, breeds in south-western United States and north-western Mexico. He also proposes to separate the resident Shrike of Lower California under the name *Lanius ludovicianus nelsoni*, subsp. n.

Lyman Belding, the oldest American ornithologist, who came to California in 1856, died in October 1917. A memoir by Mr. W. K. Fisher, with a portrait, tells us of his early adventurous life in whaling and other ships before he settled in California. His first paper, "A partial list of the Birds of Central California," was published in the Proc. U.S. Nat. Museum in 1879.

The early history of Costa's Humming-bird, *Calypte costæ*, collected by Nebouze and named by Bourcier in 1839 in honour of Costa, has always been somewhat shrouded in mystery. Much of this is disentangled in a short article by Mr. T. S. Palmer, who also fixes its type-locality at Magdalena Bay in Lower California.

Other important articles in this volume of the 'Condor' have already been dealt with as "separates."

Fauna och Flora.

[Fauna och Flora. Populär Tidskrift för Biologi. Utgifven af Einar Lönnberg. 13 vols., for the years 1906-1918. Uppsala and Stockholm.]

We should like to draw the attention of the readers of 'The Ibis' to this excellent popular Journal of Natural History, edited by our foreign member, Dr. Lönnberg, who has most generously sent to us a complete set from the commencement. In order that it may be more generally accessible, the volumes have been deposited in the General Library of the Natural History Museum, where they can be consulted by anyone making the necessary application.

As its title implies, 'Fauna och Flora' deals with both zoological and botanical subjects; it has a considerable proportion of articles of interest to ornithologists, dealing

not only with local Swedish observations, but also with others of more general interest, and is illustrated with appropriate photo-blocks.

In the volume for 1918, Count Nils Gyldenstolpe, the well-known Swedish explorer of Siam, writes at length on the fauna of that country, dividing it into faunal regions, and illustrates the characteristic scenery of each with photographs. A general review of the mammals and birds, with lists of species, makes a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the fauna of that comparatively little-known State.

A well-known Finnish naturalist, Mr. E. Merikallio, writes on the distribution of *Carpodacus erythrinus* in Finland, and Mr. C. O. G. Wibom on abnormalities in the Capercaillie; Mr. R. Söderberg on the birds occurring near Hornborgasjön in Gothland, and Dr. Lönnberg himself on Linnet \times Siskin hybrid; Mr. Granvik has recently found *Acrocephalus arundinacus* breeding in southern Sweden and publishes a photograph of the site and nest.

Of more general interest, perhaps, is an article by Mr. A. Heintze on bipolarity in plants. He suggests that the existence of certain northern Alpine plants at the southern extremity of South America may be due to the migrating birds by whom the seeds may have been transported from the north to the south.

It is suggested by Mr. A. Adlersparre that the well-known Australian Weaver-finches *Poëphila gouldiae* and *P. mirabilis* may be merely fortuitous variations and not distinct species; while, finally, on page 281, is an interesting note by the editor on the capture of a Ring-Dove in Portugal which had been ringed in southern Sweden.

Irish Naturalist.

[The Irish Naturalist. A monthly Journal on general Irish Natural History. Vol. xxvii. Jan.-Dec. 1918.]

As regards papers on birds the 'Irish Naturalist' for last year is distinctly disappointing. Apart from the short notes of no great importance there are only two

contributions on ornithology. One of these by Mr. W. H. Workman deals with the migration of Woodcock, and is based on Captain Douglas' paper on the same subject published in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1917. The investigations were conducted on the estates of Colonel W. W. Ashley, M.P., in co. Sligo, and large numbers of breeding birds were ringed. A considerable proportion of these were recovered on the estate in the immediate neighbourhood of the place of ringing, and there can be no doubt that the greater number of the birds bred on the estate are non-migratory and resident; in addition there are a good many which arrive from the north for the winter months, and a third category is formed by those which are bred on the estate and migrate southward.

The other bird-paper is by Mr. J. P. Burkitt, and deals with some interesting observations he has made on the subject of the return of the same individual pair of birds to the same nesting-spot each year. He also writes at considerable length on the subject of "frame-nests," in some cases known as "cocks' nests." These nests never have any lining, and Mr. Burkitt believes that they are constructed by unmated cock birds. In some cases later on a mate is obtained and the nest is at once completed, and the eggs laid and incubated. Mr. Burkitt's observations were made chiefly on the Whitethroat and the Wren.

Journal Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam.

[The Journal of the Natural History Society of Siam. Vol. ii., nos. 1-5, June 1916-May 1918, edited by Malcolm Smith and W. J. F. Williamson.]

The editors of this Journal and the Anglo-Siamese community of Bangkok deserve all congratulations on the completion of their second volume, which contains many papers on various subjects of zoology and botany relating to Siam. The most important contribution relating to ornithology is the junior editor's list of the birds of Bangkok, of which two instalments appeared in the previous volume, and two are now added, bringing the list,

which is arranged in the order of Oates and Blanford's Fauna, to the end of the Hoopoes. A short description, with a note on the habits and distribution in Siam together with the Siamese name in the English and vernacular script, is given in the case of each species. Mr. Williamson also contributes several shorter notes, one of which contains an account of the rare Ibis, *Thaumatibis gigantea*, only four examples of which are known. The last one of these was obtained by Mr. K. G. Gairdner at Ban Tup Takoh in Siam in March 1913 and is now mounted and exhibited in the British Museum (Natural History). A photograph of this mounted example accompanies the note.

In another short paper Mr. C. B. Kloss describes two new forms of the large red-shouldered Indian Parakeet, viz. *Paleornis eupatria avensis* from Cachar and Burma, and *P. e. siamensis* from eastern and central Siam.

Revue Française d'Ornithologie.

[*Revue Française d'Ornithologie, Scientifique et Pratique.* 10^e Année, Nos. 105-116. Jan.-Dec. 1918.]

It is a matter for considerable congratulation to M. Menegaux that he has been able to keep his monthly journal of ornithology going through the late period of stress and strain, and we trust that now it may continue to flourish and increase. The articles contained in last year's volume are numerous and interesting, dealing with all phases of our science, and we can only mention a few of them in this short notice.

M. Menegaux himself has a paper on a small collection of birds from the Senegal and Niger rivers, among which are three species, new for the French Sudan, and several scarce ones : among them is *Certhneis aloper* and *Thamnolea subrufipennis*. Another paper by the same author, with field-notes by the collector M. van Saceghem, deals with some birds from the estuarine portion of the Congo basin, and this collection is destined for the Congo Museum at Tervueren ; while a third, also by the Editor, gives a list of a collection from the Misiones Province of Argentina made

by M. E. Wagner in 1910. Another faunal list is that of Dr. Millet-Horsin, of birds met with by him near Frejus on the Riviera coast.

There are two short papers by M. P. Bédé, in one of which he shows that *Rhamphocorys clot-bey*, chiefly met with in the Sahara, ranges as far north as Mezzouna not far from Sfax in Tunisia; in the other he discusses the Black-eared and Black-throated Wheatears, which he believes must be considered distinct species. We would draw his attention in regard to this point to Major Sladen's remarks (*supra*, p. 235).

M. Bon brings forward evidence of *Clamator glandarius* occasionally breeding in the south of France, where it has been said to occur only as a rare visitor; and M. A. Bouvier records the capture, more than a hundred years ago, of *Trichodroma muraria* in a Parisian garden, some considerable distance to the north of its usual range. M. A. Blanchet adds *Terekia cinerea* and *Prunella collaris* to the fauna of Tunisia for the first time.

Among general articles Dr. F. Cattelin contests the usual view that Swallows and other migrants always return to the same nesting-place each spring, and Prof. R. Dubois discusses the subject of colour-blindness and colour-vision among birds. Finally, we notice an article by Capt. J. N. Kennedy on the birds of the valley of the Ancre on somewhat similar lines to that which he recently contributed to 'The Ibis.'

Rivista Ital. di Ornitologia.

[*Rivista Italiana di Ornitologia.* Anno iv.—1918.]

We rejoice to find that our Italian friends have found it possible to recommence the publication of their ornithological journal, which has been suspended since early in the war-time. It is now edited by Count Arrigoni degli Oddi with the assistance of F. Cavassa, Prince F. Chigi, A. Ghigi, and Count Salvadori.

The present number commences with a memoir and bibliography, accompanied by a photograph, of Prof. Martorelli,

a Foreign Member of the Union, whose sad death has already been noticed in our pages.

A review of some of the South American Rails of the genus *Creciscus* from the pen of Count Salvadori follows. He recognizes three species:—*C. cayanensis* (Bodd.), *C. facialis* (Tsch.), and *C. pileatus* (Wied). Signor G. A. Carlotto records the capture of an example of the north African *Cursorius gallicus* near Verona, and Signor A. Trischitta of *Fratercula arctica* near Messina. Some bird-notes from the Province of Friuli are contributed by Sig. Vallon; and Sig. Ghidini, who we regret to see has recently died, describes and figures the skull of a hybrid *Tetrao tetrix* × *T. urogallus*, killed in the Val di Blenio in the Ticino district.

Finally, a number of shorter notices and reviews completes a part which we hope will now be regularly followed by others of equal interest.

Scottish Naturalist.

[The Scottish Naturalist. Edited by William Eagle Clarke, LL.D., William Evans, and Percy H. Grimshaw. Vol. for 1918, Nos. 73-84.]

The completed volume of the 'Scottish Naturalist' has a number of articles dealing with Scottish Ornithology, among which we will mention some of the more important. The Rev. J. M. M'William sends some stray notes on the birds of Bute, and comments on the fact that he hardly ever observed land-birds crossing the very narrow seas from that island to the mainland, except, of course, during the regular migration season. The one exception noticed was the regular daily passage of Rooks and Jackdaws from the Craigmore shore to Toward in Argyllshire, a distance of about two miles. They leave Bute from 9 to 10 A.M. and return between 3 and 4 P.M. according to season. The Capercaillie appears to be establishing itself on the island, and the Raven is noted as a breeding bird.

A sad story is told by Mr. O. H. Mackenzie of the vanishing bird-life of the west coast of Ross-shire. The Black Grouse appears to be well-nigh extinct, and the Red

Grouse and Ptarmigan are rapidly disappearing. Other birds which were formerly so abundant as to be a nuisance, such as the Grey Lag Goose and the Lesser Black-backed Gull, are becoming increasingly rare, as well as many others. Mr. Mackenzie makes no suggestion of the cause of this melancholy state of affairs.

Mr. F. S. Beveridge has two articles on the birds of North Uist, the first dealing with the Grey Lag Goose, its habits, coloration, and breeding; it does a good deal of damage to the crofters' oats, and is consequently hunted down by them; perhaps this accounts for its increasing rarity. The second article contains a list of all the birds, 147 in number, known to have occurred in the island, 55 of which only are resident. Another contribution on the birds of the same island is a reprint of the diary of the late Mr. Alfred Chapman of a visit paid in 1883.

The Isle of May in the Firth of Forth is the subject of a historical article from the pen of Mr. W. Evans, who has collected together all the earlier notices of its avifauna prior to the bird-migration enquiries of 1879. His earliest reference is to a visit paid to the island by James IV. of Scotland in 1508 "to schut at fowles with the culveryn."

In the matter of economic ornithology Mr. W. E. Collinge makes a strong appeal for the use of the "volumetric" method of estimating the amount of the material in a bird's stomach rather than the numerical method. In the latter case the number of individual seeds, insects, etc. are enumerated, but in the former case the volume or bulk of the various kinds of food material is given, and a far more accurate conclusion as to the economic value of the bird can be deduced. Another article on bird economy is that of Mr. H. S. Gladstone in which he discusses the results arrived at by Mr. Gunther in his Report on Agricultural Damage by Vermin and Birds in the Counties of Norfolk and Oxfordshire in 1916. It is chiefly a defence of the Pheasant as the farmers' best aid in the destruction of wire-worms.

List of other Ornithological Publications received.

GRINNELL, BRYANT, and STORER. The Game Birds of California. Berkeley, Cal., 1918.

KURODA, N. Description of a new Tit (*Parus*). (Tokio Zool. Mag. xxx. 1918, p. 322.)

WHITE, Capt. S. A. Ooldea on the East-West Railway, Adelaide, 1918.

WIGLESWORTH, J. The Heronries of Somerset. (Proc. Somerset Arch. Nat. Hist. Soc. Ixiv. 1918, p. 68.)

Archivum Melitense. (Vol. iii. no. 6, 1918.)

Auk. (Vol. xxxvi. no. 1, 1919.)

Avicultural Magazine. (Third Series, Vol. x. nos. 3-5, 1919.)

Bird-Lore. (Vol. xxi. no. 1, 1919.)

Bird Notes. (Third Series, Vol. ii. nos. 1-2, 1919.)

British Birds. (Vol. xii. nos. 8-10, 1919.)

Club van Nederlandsche Voegelkundigen. Jaarbericht, no. 8, 1918.

Condor. (Vol. xxi. no. 1, 1919.)

Irish Naturalist. (Vol. xxviii. nos. 1-2, 1919.)

Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam. (Vol. iii. no. 1, 1918.)

Rev. Française d'Orn. (Nos. 117-118, 1919.)

Scottish Naturalist. (Nos. 85-86, 1919.)

South Australian Ornithologist. (Vol. iii. nos. 7-8, 1918.)

Tori. Journal of the Japanese Ornithological Society. (Nos. 1-7, 1917-1918.)

XX.—Letters, Extracts, and Notes.

Control of New Species and Subspecies.

DEAR SIR,—In these days when controllers hold their sway in so many affairs of life, it seems to me that it is high time that ornithologists of the world should agree to select a small international committee of, say, three competent individuals, who should sit for a term of years in London, or the country which contains the largest number of types. They should be paid by international subscription. All proposed new species and subspecies should be submitted to them and passed by them. Surely it is time, for the sake of ornithology and the bird student, that some steps should be taken to prevent reckless descriptions of what are often phantom forms. So long as young Mr. ——.